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Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative
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REGIONAL WORKSHOP

The role and benefits of specialized bodies in financial investigations and asset recovery

Regional platform for accelerating the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in West Africa and the Sahel

Saly, Senegal, October 24 and 25, 2023

Agenda

Tuesday 24 October – Day 1	
8.30 - 9.00	Arrival and registration of participants
9.00 - 9.20	<p>Introduction and welcoming of participants</p> <p>Definition of workshop objectives, importance of using financial investigation in criminal investigation processes, and deployment of various remedies to have a greater impact on crime in West Africa and the Sahel.</p> <p>Facilitator: Wai Hong Victor Lee, UNODC</p>
9.20 - 9.30	<p>Summary of recommendations</p> <p>Recap of the workshop on gender dimensions in the fight against corruption and recommendations developed for financial investigations and asset recovery within the framework of the regional platform.</p> <p>Facilitator: Ellinore Eriksson, UNODC</p>
9.30 – 10.00	<p>Session 1: Foundations of financial investigation</p> <p>Presentation of the basic elements and concepts of financial investigation and how it can contribute to advancing criminal investigations in the fight against corruption through the various stages of (a) detecting corruption, (b) tracing and processing the proceeds of crime, and (c) asset confiscation and related procedures.</p>



	Facilitator: Wai Hong Victor Lee, UNODC
10.00 - 10.45	<p>Session 2: Detecting corruption offences</p> <p>Practical group discussion and feedback session on the criminal justice system for fighting corruption, and in particular on inter-agency cooperation. The session will discuss how different entities or authorities within the same jurisdiction in West Africa and the Sahel can link up to improve the detection of corruption offenses and the exchange of intelligence.</p> <p>Facilitator: Wai Hong Victor Lee, UNODC</p>
10.45 - 11.15	<p>Opening ceremony</p> <p>Opening remarks by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kameldy Neldjingaye, Deputy Regional Representative, UNODC Regional Office for West and Central Africa ▪ Babacar Ba, Vice-président, Office National de lutte contre la fraude et la corruption OFNAC ▪ Pierre Giraud, Regional Liaison Magistrate, Embassy of France in Senegal and the Gambia
11.15 - 11.45	Coffee break and group photo
11.45 - 12.15	<p>Session 2 (continued): Detecting the crime of corruption</p> <p>Practical group discussion and feedback session (continued)</p> <p>Facilitator: Wai Hong Victor Lee, UNODC</p>
12.15 - 12.45	<p>Session 3: Tracing and processing proceeds of crime</p> <p>Following on from the previous session, this session illustrates the importance of tracing the origin of illicit funds generated by corruption offences, and examines the potential complications associated with the common techniques used by criminals to conceal illicit assets.</p>
12.45 - 13.45	Lunch break
13.45 - 15.15	Session 3 (continued): Tracing and processing proceeds of crime



	<p>Practical group discussion and feedback session on their practices within their jurisdictions on how to trace the origins of illicit gains generated by the crime of corruption, and on how to strengthen their capacities to overcome existing limitations.</p> <p>Facilitator: Wai Hong Victor Lee, UNODC</p>
15.15 - 15.30	Coffee break
15.30 - 16.00	<p>Session 4: Money laundering</p> <p>While understanding the nature of the asset search, this session addresses the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The usual techniques for concealing assets generated by illicit funds (fictitious invoices, electronic transfers and cross-border asset transfer techniques, shell companies, legal arrangements and trusts) - The relationship between predicate offences of corruption and the money-laundering offences that flow from them. <p>Facilitator: Wai Hong Victor Lee, UNODC</p>
16.00 - 17.00	<p>Session 4 (continued): Money laundering</p> <p>Practical group discussion and feedback session on the existing legal framework and means of investigation to combat money laundering in their respective jurisdictions, and identification of gaps to strengthen anti-money laundering capabilities to deter underlying corruption offenses.</p> <p>Facilitators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wai Hong Victor Lee, UNODC ▪ Jean-Pierre Brun, World Bank/Stolen Assets Recovery Initiative (StAR)
Wednesday 25 October - Day 2	
09.00 - 09.15	<p>Arrival of participants</p> <p>Summarize what was learned on the first day and define expectations for the second day.</p>
09.15 - 10.00	<p>Session 4 (continued): Money laundering</p> <p>Practical group discussion and feedback session (continued)</p> <p>Facilitators:</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wai Hong Victor Lee, UNODC ▪ Jean-Pierre Brun, World Bank/Stolen Assets Recovery Initiative (StAR)
10.00 - 10.30	Coffee break
10.30 - 12.00	<p>Session 5: International best practice in the fight against corruption, with the deployment of financial investigation during the detection phases of corruption, the tracing and processing of the proceeds of crime, and asset confiscation and related procedures.</p> <p>Following the discussion and feedback from the first day, this session aims to provide participants with new perspectives and recent experiences from France and other countries in the fight against corruption with the deployment of financial investigations and how these means respond to the limitations and difficulties revealed on the first day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of specialized police/prosecution units; • Specific survey techniques; • Property identification; • Seizure/freezing/confiscation of assets; • Seized/frozen goods management; • Management and sale of confiscated goods. <p>Facilitator: Jean-Pierre Brun (World Bank/Stolen Assets Recovery Initiative StAR)</p>
12.00 - 12.30	<p>Session 6: Confiscation of assets and relevant procedures</p> <p>Building on the knowledge acquired in previous sessions, this session looks in more detail at how to reduce the profits of criminal enterprises, and how the asset freezing and confiscation regime is becoming a very powerful tool for reducing the sources of corruption.</p> <p>Facilitator: Jean-Pierre Brun, World Bank/Stolen Assets Recovery Initiative (StAR)</p>
12.30- 13.30	Lunch break
13.30 - 14.30	<p>Session 6 (continued): Confiscation of assets and relevant procedures</p> <p>Practical group discussion and feedback session on existing means to restrict and confiscate illicit gains based on their respective legal frameworks and listing of exhaustive means and procedures to confiscate assets in order to punish offenders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inter-agency coordination (tax, FIU, customs, supervision, etc.); • Recourse to unexplained wealth legislation; • Confiscation of value; • Use of presumptions.



	Facilitator: Jean-Pierre Brun, World Bank/Stolen Assets Recovery Initiative (StAR)
14.30 - 15.00	Coffee break
15.00 - 15.30	<p>Session 7: International cooperation and beyond</p> <p>As the location of illicit assets can be cross-border, this session aims to provide participants with the importance of advanced planning, coordination and cooperation with other jurisdictions in the case of a cross-border asset freezing and confiscation action plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange of information from financial intelligence unit to financial intelligence unit (FIU to FIU); • Police-to-police information exchange; • Tax information exchange; • Asset recovery networks (ARINs) ; • StAR (Stolen Assets Recovery Initiative) forums; • Mutual legal assistance (MLA). <p>Facilitator: Jean-Pierre Brun, World Bank/Stolen Assets Recovery Initiative (StAR)</p>
15.30 - 17.00	<p>Session 8: Working on a case study</p> <p>To conclude the workshop, participants will be divided into groups and take on the role of prosecutors to work on a hypothetical case of syndicated cross-border corruption. Participants are encouraged to use the knowledge gained during the workshop and present a 15-minute investigation plan to present the case using financial investigation, while taking into account the following elements: (a) detection of corruption, (b) tracing and handling of proceeds of crime, as well as (c) asset forfeiture and relevant procedures. Cross-jurisdictional issues should also be addressed in due course. The strengths and limitations of the plan should also be addressed.</p> <p>The moderators will act as judges, approving or refuting the participants' investigation plans, and selecting a final "winner" from among the groups on the basis of the integrity, feasibility and creativity of the overall concept.</p> <p>Facilitators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jean-Pierre Brun, World Bank/Stolen Assets Recovery Initiative (StAR) ▪ Wai Hong Victor Lee, UNODC
17.00 - 17.15	Evaluation and closing ceremony